

Mini Grants

The Westinghouse Savannah River Company's (WSRC) Mini Grants program is designed to recognize and support excellence in teaching by providing funds to enhance elementary and middle school science, mathematics, and technology programs in the Central Savannah River Area. Since the inception of the program in 1989, Westinghouse Savannah River Company has awarded over \$626,000 to over 1,300 teachers in the Central Savannah River Area.

Public elementary and middle school teachers in the seven county CSRA (Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Edgefield counties in South Carolina and Columbia and Richmond counties in Georgia) are invited to submit an application for one of three categories. Please duplicate the attached application as necessary for your teachers.

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of judges based on the criteria listed in this brochure.

Copies of this brochure are being provided so that principals may distribute them to every teacher in lieu of printing unnecessary copies of the grant application.

Answers to frequently asked questions...

- Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Edgefield, Richmond, and Columbia counties are eligible to apply for mini grants.
- Public school elementary and middle school educators may apply.
- Guidance counselors may apply for mini grants as long as it's demonstrated that the project will benefit elementary and middle school students in the classroom.
- Applicants do not have to be a science, math or technology teacher to be eligible for a mini grant. The grant writer must demonstrate that the project will enhance those concepts in the classroom.
- Previously submitted grants will not be sent to applicants to be used as examples. This would give an unfair advantage to those not receiving copies of previously submitted grants.
- From a WSRC perspective, materials supplies and equipment become property of the winning teacher. However, teachers should check with their schools. Some schools do take ownership of the materials.

Applications available from school principal, media specialist or online at
http://www.srs.gov/general/outreach/edoutrch/ed_home.htm

Due to security conditions, applications cannot be hand delivered by non-SRS employees.

WSRC EXCELLENCE-IN-TEACHING MINI GRANTS PROGRAM



GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA



Program Overview

Program Goal

To recognize and support excellence in teaching by providing funds for educational materials and resources to enhance elementary and middle school science, mathematics, and technology programs in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA).

Eligible

Elementary or middle PUBLIC school educators who teach/work in one of the following CSRA counties: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield counties in South Carolina; Columbia or Richmond counties in Georgia.

Categories

Category A (\$500)

Classroom Teachers Only - Grant proposals for the purchase of basic supplies and materials for use in a single classroom in conjunction with student centered activities.

Category B* (\$750)

Grant proposal for equipment to enhance hands on science, mathematics or technology programs, which will be utilized in a single classroom or grade level.

Category C* (\$1000)

Grant proposal for equipment to implement a science, mathematics, or technology project, which will be utilized by more than one grade or the entire school.

* Applications for Category B and C require a project plan and implementation schedule.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the selection committee:

- Goals and objectives clearly stated and measurable.
- Project directly involves students.
- Evaluation component.
- Budget is reasonable, appropriate, and specific.

Additional criteria for Categories B and C:

- Proposal contains a Project Plan with evaluation component.
- Implementation Schedule is reasonable.
- Integrates technology with instruction.
- Promotes scientific methodology, problem solving and higher order thinking skills.
- Potential for replication.

Application Process

- Proposals must be submitted on the current year's WSRC Mini Grant Application form.
- Applicants may only submit one application and cannot be the exact same grant as another applicant's submittal.
- Proposals should include all requested information, and be approved by school principal.
- Proposals must NOT include name of school/district or any other identifying description of the school.
- Fax copies will not be accepted.
- All winners will be notified by the school's principal in late March.

Mini Grants Program Tips

To increase your chances for funding, please keep in mind the following characteristics when developing your mini grant:

Good mini grants...

- Show usefulness over long periods of time
- Benefit large numbers of students
- Capture students' interest
- Provide unique and/or higher concept learning
- Contain reference information (e.g. vendor information, etc.)
- Address curriculum standards

In addition, good mini grants are...

- Appropriate for grade level
- Neatly constructed
- Easily set up and can be used frequently

Completed applications should be mailed to:
Donna Moore Wesby
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
SRS, Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29808